SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 42/Number 12 November 2010



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

In April 2010, I had the great pleasure of accompanying about 60 eighth graders from St. John of the Cross School in Western Springs to Washington D.C. Both the students and I will have everlasting memories of visiting the World War II Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

On November 11th, we remembered and honored our veterans both living and deceased. I recall that Arlington National Cemetery which consists of 624 acres shelters the remains of over 320,000 servicemen and women from the American Revolution through military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument to all of the unidentified soldiers who have died in battle. A sentinel of the Third U.S. Infantry keeps vigil around the clock regardless of the weather. When the New York Towers and the Pentagon were attacked on September 11, 2001, these soldiers never left their post.

The sentinel paces 21 steps alongside the tomb, pauses 21 seconds, then returns. The changing of the guard takes place every hour. Taps are sounded and a wreath is placed at the tomb. Arlington Cemetery is our nation's most sacred military shrine.

A poem entitled "Freedom is not Free" by Commander Kelly Strong, U.S.C.G. brings home the importance of remembering and giving thanks to our veterans:

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

I watched the flag pass by one day – It fluttered in the breeze A young marine saluted it - And then he stood at ease I looked at him in uniform - So young, so tall, so proud With hair cut square and eyes alert - He'd stand out in any crowd I wondered how many men like him - Have fallen through the years How many died on foreign soil, how many Mothers' tears How many pilots' planes shot down - How many died at sea How many foxholes were soldiers' graves - No, freedom is not free I heard the sound of Taps one night – When everything was still I listened to the bugler play – And felt a sudden chill I wondered just how many times - Taps had meant "Amen" When a flag had covered a coffin - Of a brother or a friend I thought of all the children - of the mothers and the wives Of Fathers, Sons, and Husbands - With interrupted lives And I thought about the graveyard – At the bottom of the sea Of unmarked graves in Arlington – No, Freedom is not Free.



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Mayor Andrews and the Village Board of Trustees give thanks to Jane Kuhn and all the

volunteer docents for their time and effort, especially for again conducting a book sale to help raise funds for the Heritage Center Library.

Finally, Mayor Rich Andrews and the Board of Trustees wish to extend to all residents and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. We are all grateful for your support!

Sincerely, Trustee Anne Bermier

p.s. As you know, on November 2nd, the residents of IHP had the opportunity to vote on the Home Rule referendum as well as various federal, state, and county offices. Some candidates were successful in their election bids and others were not. Some communities chose to approve home rule but others, including IHP, did not. The Home Rule referendum was proposed to give our residents an opportunity to provide input on one option available to address our financial situation. The results showed that our residents did not wish to adopt this option at this time. In keeping with your Administration's stated intent from the outset, this matter was presented to our residents for their decision. Now that it has been made, we will all abide by that decision. Whether you supported home rule or opposed it, I want to assure everyone that the VBT and I will work just as hard to resolve our financial concerns with the tools available to our community and move forward as we have done in the past and in accordance with this choice by our residents. Indeed, we have much for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving! I am especially thankful for the positive feedback given to me by residents from both sides of this referendum who stated that Indian Head Park is indeed a jewel in the western suburbs and who want it to remain so for another 50 years! It is my intent to do my part to make that happen! Happy Thanksgiving!

-- Mayor Richard S. Andrews

Thanksgiving Traditions

The Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance. Instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, is a Thanksgiving staple at the dinner table. The Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621. Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird-whether roasted, baked or deep-fried-on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives. Parades have also become an integral part of the holiday in cities and towns across the United States. Presented by Macy's Department Store since 1924, New York City's Thanksgiving Day Parade is the largest and most famous, attracting some 2 to 3 million spectators along its 2.5-mile route and drawing an enormous television audience. It typically features marching bands, performers, elaborate floats conveying various celebrities and giant balloons shaped like cartoon characters.

Last, but certainly not least, Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for the people and blessings of the past year. From pre-meal prayers to providing holiday meals to the homeless. the holiday is truly a celebration of praise and thanksgiving.

The First Thanksgiving

When the Pilgrims first gathered together to share with their Indian friends in the mild autumn air, they lifted the voices in jubilant praise for the bread on the table, the berries and maize, for field and for forest, for turkey and deer, for the bountiful crops they were blessed with that year. They were thankful for these as they feasted away, and as they were thankful we're thankful today. Unknown

Smoke Signals

Volume 42. Number 12 Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach (708) 246-7099, extension 101 kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements -\$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements -\$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of Smoke Signals can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is December 9, 2010.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.: Thursday, December 9, 2010

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:

No meetings scheduled at this time.

E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:

Thursday, December 16, 2010

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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Office Hours

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Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mavor: Richard S. Andrews

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TEEPEE *** TOPICS

Our condolences to the families and friends on the loss of their loved ones: George Melichar, age 81, who proudly served our country in the Army during the Korean War. George was an accountant for 31 years with the YMCA of Metro Chicago and eight years as Treasurer of Lyons Township. Michael Seneca, age 54. George M. Nault, age 56 who was the son of William and Helen Nault of Indian Head Park. George enjoyed watching Nascar, he played hockey and cherished his German Shepherds. Denise Marie Barta, of Indian Head Park and formerly of Stickney.

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park who were named to the honor roll at Fenwick High School: William Bailey, Thaddeus Rogozinski and Rocco Stefanini.

Congratulations to Indian Head Park native Brenda Brkusic who won an Emmy for the documentary "Bloody Thursday". She is executive producer of the winning film about the struggle of West Coast dockworkers during the Great Depression. Working in public television, she is manager of KOCE-TV's digital channel covering Southern California and continues to produce documentaries presented nationally through PBS.



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